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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/828,547	04/06/2001	Roni Korenshtein	004411.P005	4974

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EXAMINER
HOANG, PHUONG N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2126	

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 April 2001</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1 - 15</u> is/are pending in the application.

     4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1 - 15</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>06 April 2001</u> is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

       1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

       3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1 – 15 are pending for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2.   Claims 1 – 11, and 13 – 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph,

as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a.   The claim language in the following claims is not clearly understood:

(i).   As to claims 1, 3 – 5, and 13 - 15, it is not clearly indicated that the

terms "context identifier", "object identifier", and "attribute identifier" mean.

Examiner did not see the terms in the disclosed specification. Those terms only

were described in the summary of the invention, but not support in the body of

the specification. For examination purpose, examiner treats the terms as a

specified value to meet the condition in a query clause.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   **Claims 1 – 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang, US patent no. 6,263,342 in view of the admitted prior art (APA) pages 2 – 3.**

5.   **As to claim 1**, Chang teaches a method of determining a value of an attribute of

an object comprising the steps of:

attempting to determine the value by formulating a first query (the first query in

the federated hierarchy queries, col. 7 lines 20 – 27 and col. 21 lines 44 – 65) to retrieve

the attribute from a properties data store based upon a combination of a current context

identifier (image object or text object, col. 5 lines 30 – 40), an object identifier

associated with the object (object identifier, col. 22 lines 65 – 67), and an attribute

identifier associated with the attribute (attributes with type, value, and properties, col. 10

lines 24 – 35), submitting the first query through an application programming interface

(API, col. 5 lines 24 – 26) associated with the properties data store, and receiving

results (results are returned, col. 7 lines 20 – col. 8 lines 26) associated with the first

query; and

if the first query is unsuccessful at locating the value, then determining the value

by formulating a second query (nested query, col. 8 lines 19 – 26 and col. 9 lines 35 –

40) to retrieve the attribute from the properties data store based upon a combination of

the object identifier and the attribute identifier, submitting the second query through the

API, and receiving results associated with the second query (results are returned, col. 7

lines 20 – col. 8 lines 26).

Chang does not explicitly teach the data store is a properties data store.

However, Change teaches all attributes have properties (col. 23 lines 55 – 67).

In addition, the APA teaches that the data store is a properties data store for

storing attributes values (properties data file for storing attributes values, page 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine the teaching of Chang and the APA's system because

the APA's properties data store would provide a data source for the queries to be used

for maintaining information of the whole system.

6.   **As to claim 2,** the APA teaches the step of wherein the properties data store

comprises one or more Java properties files (Java properties files, page 3 lines 1 – 5).

7.   **As to claims 3 and 4,** Change teaches the step of wherein the first query and

second query are compliant with standard Java properties files, and wherein the first

query includes a string value representing the current context identifier (image object or text object, col. 5 lines 30 – 40), the object identifier (object identifier, col. 22 lines 65 – 67), the attribute identifier (attributes with type, value, and properties, col. 10 lines 24 – 35), and delimiters (comma is needed when querying more than one attributes or fields) separating the identifiers from each other.

8.   **As to claim 5**, this is a method of claim 1. See rejection for claim 1 above. Further, Chang teaches the step of if the second attribute retrieval stage (results, col. 7 lines 20 – col. 8 lines 26) is unsuccessful, attempting to determine the value by initiating a third attribute retrieval stage that formulates and applies a third set of queries (nested queries can be nested multiple levels including third one, lines 20 – col. 8 lines 26) that traverses (col. 35 lines 35 – 67) the object hierarchy without regard for context, each query of the third set of queries including an object identifier associated with an object of the object hierarchy and the attribute identifier.

9.   **As to claim 6**, Chang teaches the step of wherein the object inherits (inherits, col. 23 lines and col. 29 lines 1 – 10) the attribute from a base object defined in the Java properties file.

10.   **As to claim 7**, Chang teaches the step of wherein the object overrides the value assigned to the attribute in connection with the base object (col. 29 lines 1 – 25).

11.   **As to claim 8**, Chang teaches the step of wherein the object represents a

prompt of a graphical user interface (GUI, col. 44 lines 1 – 5).

12.   **As to claims 9 and 10**, see rejection for claims 6 and 7 above.

13.   **As to claim 11**, Change teaches the step of wherein the current context

represents a particular page of a website (Internet, col. 39 lines 4 – 12).

14.   **As to claim 12**, Change teaches a system for maintaining attribute-value pairs

comprising the steps of:

a Java data store (Java data store, col. 21 lines 40 – 55 and col. 23 lines 60 – 65)

having stored therein values of a plurality of attributes (attributes with type, value, and

properties, col. 10 lines 24 – 35), the one or more objects represented in an improved

syntax that is compliant with standard Java data store semantics thereby making the

existence of the one or more objects transparent to Java;

a Java application programming interface (Java API, col. 5 lines 24 – 26) to

receive and apply queries for attribute values to the Java stores; and

a syntax enhancement layer residing above the Java API that is able to receive

and parse (parsed, col. 43 lines 60 – col. 44 lines 5) queries formulated according to the

improved properties file syntax (syntax, col. 33 lines 40 – 50 and col. 35 lines 45 – 55)

and issue appropriate queries to the Java API.

Chang does not explicitly teach the data store is a properties data store.

However, Change teaches all attributes have properties (col. 23 lines 55 – 67).

The APA teaches the steps of the data store is a properties data store storing

attributes values (properties data store, page 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine the teaching of Chang and the APA's system because

the APA's properties data store would provide data results for the queries and be good

for maintaining all information of the whole system.

15.   **As to claim 13**, see rejection for claim 5 above.

16.   **As to claim 14**, this is a software claim of claim 1. See rejection for claim 1

above.

17.   **As to claim 15**, this is a software claim of claim 5. See rejection for claim 5

above.

Conclusion

18.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Coden et al, US patent no. 6,341,277, demonstrating a method for heterogeneous database queries.

Brodsky et al, US patent no. 5,893,913, demonstrating a method for queries in a linear data structure.

19.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong N. Hoang whose telephone number is (703) 605-4239. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (703)305-9678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ph
June 28, 2004

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